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Senate

The Senate met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Here is the good news from Zephaniah 3:17:

"The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Gracious God, on the Monday when we return to our responsibilities of completing the work of the Senate before the Christmas recess, we ask You to give us an assurance of Your unqualified love, profound peace that quiets our hearts, and ears tuned to hear Your song of affirmation. We need Your gift of vibrant optimism.

Our optimism often is like a tea bag: We never know how strong it is until we get into hot water. In times of frustration or adversity, our optimism is tested. When the wheels of political process grind slowly, often we become pessimistic. It is then that we need to hear Your song of encouragement. So often we live as if we had to carry the burdens of leadership alone. Today we relinquish to You any negative thoughts, critical attitudes, or impatient moods. Infuse us with Your hope. Hope through us today, O God of hope, so that we will be a lift and not a load, a blessing and not a burden. And as the Christmas angels came to shepherds at

work, come to us as we work for Your glory and the good of our Nation. "Ring out the bells of the kirk; God is down to Earth to bless those who work!" You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and with the time to be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Wyoming.

CONFIRMATION OF EUGENE SCALIA AS SOLICITOR OF LABOR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to speak about the nomina-

tion of Eugene Scalia as the Solicitor of Labor. On previous occasions, I have had the opportunity to speak about Mr. Scalia's outstanding qualifications for this position. Today, unfortunately, I must also speak about the failure of the majority party to bring his nomination to the floor.

On April 30, 2001, President Bush nominated Eugene Scalia as the Solicitor of Labor. That was 231 days ago. On October 17 he was reported out of committee. That was 2 months ago today. A lot of time has elapsed since his nomination. Time has also elapsed since his successful reporting out of committee. This is a longer confirmation period than any Solicitor of Labor in the past 20 years.

Each day that passes without a vote on his nomination is an injustice not only to Mr. Scalia but to the President, the Department of Labor, and all those who are served by the Department as well.

I have with me today a letter to Senator KENNEDY, who is the head of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The letter adds emphasis to what I have just said, that this is the longest time in 20 years that it has taken for a Solicitor of the Department of Labor to be considered. It also talks about how important this position is and how important it is to have it filled right away.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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